

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 9875

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM PFOR ID PORG

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA

REF: JAKARTA 7692

1. SUMMARY. DURING VISIT CODEL WOLFF EMBERS RAISED HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS WITH GENERAL YOGA, CHIEF OF BAKIN. MISUNDERSTANDING REGARDING NUMBER OF DETAINEES AND NEGATIVE RESPONSES REGARDING POSSIBLE VISIT TO BARU ISLAND MAY COMPLICATE OTHER EFFORTS TO FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. END SUMMARY

2. IN MEETING WITH GENERAL YOGA, CHIEF OF INDONESIAN INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION BAKIN, AUGUST 7, CONGRESSMEN SOLARZ AND BADILLO RAISED QUESTION OF NUMBER AND STATUS 1965 DETAINEES. YOGA REPLIED TWICE TO QUESTIONS SAYING THAT "IF YOU MEAN TYPE OF DETAINEES ON BARU ISLAND, NUMBER IS 50,000." WHEN CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ ASKED WHETHER CONGRESSIONAL GROUP COULD VISIT BARU ISLAND, YOGA SAID HE DID NOT FEEL SUCH VISIT WAS WITHIN APPROPRIATE INTEREST OF OUTSIDE LEGISLATIVE GROUP.

3. SUBSEQUENT TO YOGA MEETING WITH CONGRESSMEN, EMBASSY CHECKED WITH YOGA'S DEPUTY, GENERAL HERNOWO WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT CODEL MEETING, EXPRESSING SURPRISE AT FIGURE
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OF 50,000 WHICH WAS MARKEDLY AT VARIANCE ALL PREVIOUS

FIGURES BOTH OF TOTAL DETAINEES AND OF THOSE ON BARU ISLAND. HERNOWO ALSO EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT AND SAID YOGA HAD BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD--THAT HE MEANT 15,000.

4. AMBASSADOR TALKED WITH SOLARZ AND BADILLO PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE EXPLAINING THAT YOGA DID NOT HAVE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETAINEES AND THAT FIGURE WAS SHARPLY AT VARIANCE WITH VERY PRECISE FIGURES WHICH WE HAD BOTH FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND FROM KOPKAMTIB. AMBASSADOR ALSO OUTLINED IN GENERAL TERMS EFFORTS BY EMBASSY TO ACQUAINT INDONESIAN WITH CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS AND WITH EFFORTS TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR SUBSEQUENT CONGRESSIONAL VISIT WITH EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. CONGRESSMAN BADILLO WAS FAMILIAR WITH FACT THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS HAD MADE STUDY OF DETAINEE PROBLEM AND ASKED WHETHER WE COULD OBTAIN STUDY. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED STUDY HAD BEEN MADE ON CONDITION THAT IT WOULD NOT BE RELEASED WITHOUT AGREEMENT OF INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT. EMBASSY HAD NOT SEEN REPORT BUT UNDERSTOOD THAT IT FOUND CONDITIONS OF DETAINEES ON BURU ISLAND NOT MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF OTHER RICE FARMERS IN GENERAL AREA.

5. COMMENT: GENERAL YOGA'S HANDLING OF CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS, UNFORTUNATELY, PARTICULARLY INEPT. WE FEEL THAT AT LEAST CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ AND BADILLO MAY HAVE LEFT SKEPTICAL BOTH OF YOGA'S FIGURES AND OF EMBASSY'S. WHILE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS WERE NOT AMONG PRIMARY INTEREST OF CODEL WOLFF, IT IS POSSIBLE DELEGATION REPORT MAY REFLECT INDONESIAN CONFUSION AND REJECTION OF PROPOSAL TO VISIT BURU ISLAND. IF SO, THIS COULD SET BACK EFFORTS TO TRAIN TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR VISIT OF FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE.

6. EMBASSY STILL AWAITING DEPARTMENT'S REPLY TO REQUEST FOR ADVICE REGARDING FURTHER MOVES IN THIS AREA (PARA 11 OF REFTEL). NEWSOM

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